

In more detail, and as shown in FIGS. 10 and 11, torso support 150 includes a first side generally designated 160 and an opposed second side generally designated 170. In FIG. 10, first side 160 is on the bottom and is positioned on underlying surface 200. Second side 170 is on the top. However, in FIG. 11, the positions have been reversed by flipping the support 180° on its longitudinal axis thereby placing first side 160 on the top and second side 170 on the bottom.

When first side 160 is positioned on surface 200 as shown in FIG. 10, then second side 170 is defined by a first platform 172 for providing lifting support from below the upper chest and shoulders of a user's body (not shown) and a second platform 176 for providing cooperating lifting support from below the lumbar vertebrae of the body. An open region generally designated 174 extends longitudinally between platforms 172, 176.

Conversely, when second side 170 is positioned on surface 200 as shown in FIG. 11, then first side 160, now on top, is defined by a third platform 162 for providing lifting support from below the upper chest and shoulders of the user's body and a fourth platform 166 for providing cooperating lifting support from below the lumbar vertebrae of the body. An open region generally designated 164 extends longitudinally between platforms 162, 166.

The overall length, height and width of torso support 150 is essentially the same as that of torso support 1. Similarly, the surface area of platforms 172 and 176 are essentially the same as those of upper surfaces 22 and 26, respectively, of torso support 1. Likewise, the size of open region 174 is essentially the same as that of open region 24 of torso support 1. However, the surface areas of platforms 162 and 166 are greater than those of platforms 172 and 176, respectively, and the size of open region 164, including a shallower depression, is smaller than that of open region 174. Thus, when torso support 150 is flipped 180° from the position shown in FIGS. 9 and 10 to the position shown in FIG. 11, the support characteristics will be altered.

In use, a user may select side 160 or side 170 of torso support 1 to be used as the top or bottom side of torso support 150. When side 160 is used on the bottom as shown in FIGS. 9 and 10, then torso support 150 will provide the same support characteristics as torso support 1. However, if the resulting stretch on the user's back is uncomfortable, then the user may elect to use side 170 on the bottom as shown in FIG. 11. Then, the body will receive additional underlying support by reason of the larger surface areas of platforms 162 and 166, and the smaller size of open region 174.

In the embodiment shown in FIG. 9 to 11, the elevations of platforms 172 and 176 or platforms 162 and 166 (as the case may be depending upon which side 160 or 170 of torso support 150 is on top) are substantially equal. However, it will be understood that this is not essentially so. Some or all of such elevations may differ. For example, such elevations may be altered with the use of a spacer such as spacer 85 described above in relation to FIG. 4.

Various modifications and changes can be made to the form, details, arrangement, size and proportion of the various parts described above with reference to the foregoing embodiments without departing from the scope of the present invention. The invention is not to be construed as limited to the particular embodiments which have been described and should be understood as encompassing all those embodiments which are within the spirit and scope of the claims which follow.

I claim:

1. A body rest structure comprising a longitudinally extending torso support for supporting the torso of a human body in a prone position elevated above an underlying surface, said torso support including first and second sides selectively positionable on said surface, wherein:

(a) when said first side is positioned on said surface, said second side is defined by:

(i) a first platform for providing lifting support from below the upper chest and shoulders of said body at a first predetermined elevation above said surface;

(ii) a second platform for providing cooperating lifting support only from below the lumbar vertebrae of said body at a second predetermined elevation above said surface; and,

(iii) an open region extending longitudinally between said first and second platforms for providing room for at least a portion of the weight of the chest of said body below said shoulders to pull down on said body between said first and second platforms;

said first and second platforms and said open region being sized to enable a longitudinal stretch of both the thoracic vertebrae and the lumbar vertebrae of said body when said body is positioned on said first and second platforms; and concurrently, said first platform permitting the neck and head of said body to tilt forwardly and downwardly from said shoulders to a tucked chin position enabling a longitudinal stretch of the cervical vertebrae of the body;

(b) when said second side is positioned on said underlying surface, said first side is defined by:

(i) a third platform for providing lifting support from below the upper chest and shoulders of said body at a third predetermined elevation above said surface;

(ii) a fourth platform for providing cooperating lifting support from below the lumbar vertebrae of said body at a fourth predetermined elevation above said surface; and,

(iii) an open region extending longitudinally between said third and fourth platforms for providing room for at least a portion of the weight of the chest of said body below said shoulders to pull down on said body between said third and fourth platforms; and,

(c) the longitudinal extension of said open region between said first and second platforms defined when said first side is positioned on said surface is greater than the longitudinal extension of said open region between said third and fourth platforms defined when said second side is positioned on said surface.

2. A body rest structure as defined in claim 1, wherein said first, second, third and fourth predetermined elevations are substantially equal.

3. A body rest structure comprising a torso support extending longitudinally from a front end to a rear end for supporting the torso of a human body in a prone position elevated above an underlying surface, said torso support comprising:

(a) an upper chest and shoulder support platform having an upper surface extending longitudinally from said front end for a relatively short distance for providing lifting support from below the upper chest and shoulders of said body, said platform having a width between opposed longitudinally extending sides of said platform, said width being sized for permitting left and right arms of said body to concurrently extend downwardly from said upper surface over associated ones of